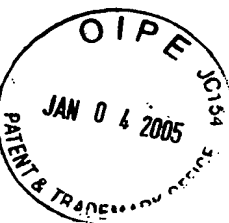


2615  
261

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

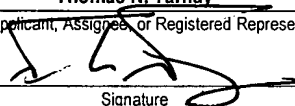


Application No.: 09/377,667  
Applicant: Hiromu MUKAI  
For: IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE  
Confirmation No.: 8179  
Customer No.: 24367  
Docket No.: 15162/01020  
Filed: August 19, 1999  
Group Art Unit: 2615  
Examiner: Brian C. Genco

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on	
December 30, 2004	Date of Deposit
Thomas N. Tarnay	
Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative	
	
Signature	
December 30, 2004	Date of Signature

**RESPONSE**

This Response is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2004, which provides for a shortened statutory response period ending January 1, 2005.

The Office Action of December 1, 2004 imposed a requirement for election of species between the allegedly distinct species disclosed in the application as follows:

Species I: Figs. 1 and 5

Species II: Figs. 6-8.

By this response, applicants elect Species I (corresponding to Figs. 1 and 5) without traverse. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15 are within the elected species.

Application No.: 09/377,667  
Amendment dated December 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2004

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Thomas N. Tarnay  
Registration No. 41,341  
Attorney for Applicant

TNT/llb  
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP  
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
Direct: (214) 981-3388  
Main: (214) 981-3300  
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400  
December 30, 2004